Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) A method of collecting a sample from a material comprising:

(a) providing a device comprising:

(i) a chamber shaped at one end to form a socket and at the other end to form a sample collection reservoir; and

(ii) a ball housed within the socket, wherein at least part of an external surface of the ball in the socket is configured to contact the sample;

(b) introducing the material to the device by contacting the material with the external surface of the ball;

(c) rotating the ball; and

(d) collecting the sample in the collection reservoir from the material introduced to the device.

44. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 43 wherein the material is transferred from the ball to the collection reservoir via an absorbent material housed within the collection reservoir and in contact with the external surface of the ball.

45. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 44 wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a resin capable of deactivating nucleases, an absorbent membrane, absorbent filter, and a metal chelating membrane.

46. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 43 further comprising applying moisture or fluid to the material prior to collecting the sample.

47. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 43 further comprising dissolving or suspending the sample in a fluid in the collection reservoir.

48. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 43 wherein the sample passes from the collection reservoir through an outlet.

49. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 48 wherein the sample passes into one or more conduits connected to the outlet.

50. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 43 further comprising performing an analysis of the sample.

51. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the analysis is performed in the collection reservoir.

52. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 50 further comprising connecting the device to an analysis device for analysis of the sample.

53. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 52 wherein the analysis device is a thermocycler.

54. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 43 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a biological cell, a bacterium, a virus, a blood sample, a tissue sample, a plant sample, and an industrial waste sample.

55. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 50 wherein the analysis comprises evaluating a substance selected from the group consisting of DNA, RNA, an antigen, a pathogen, a chemical contaminant, a trace element, and radioactivity.

56. (Withdrawn) A device for collecting a fluid sample including:

(a) a ball housed within a socket where at least part of the external surface of the ball is capable of contact with the fluid,

(b) a chamber shaped at one end to form the socket and at the other end to form a sample collection reservoir,

(c) an absorbent material housed within the sample collection reservoir, where the external surface of the ball contacts the absorbent material.

57. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 further comprising an outlet to allow fluid to pass from the reservoir.

58. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 57 further comprising one or more sample conduits connected to the outlet.

59. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the device is adapted to connect to an analysis device for analysis of the sample.

60. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the device is adapted so that analysis of the sample can occur when the sample is in the collection reservoir.

61. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the device is adapted so that analysis of the sample occurs at a location in the device that receives the sample when it passes from the reservoir.

62. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a resin capable of deactivating nucleases, an absorbent membrane, absorbent filter, and a metal chelating membrane.

63. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the device is longitudinal with a substantially circular external wall cross-section and houses the ball, the socket, and the chamber.

64. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the device comprises a handle formed as a shaft connected to the collection reservoir.

65. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 64 wherein the handle is integrally formed with the socket.

66. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 64 wherein the socket may be mounted to the handle so that the handle is detachable.

67. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 comprising a cap for each end of the device so that the device can be sealed both before and after collecting a sample.

68. (Withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 56 wherein the surface of the ball is textured or roughened to minimize slippage of the ball on a surface when in use.

69. (New) A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the external surface of the ball comprises a spherical, substantially continuous surface.

70. (New) A method as claimed in claim 43, comprising maintaining the exterior surface of the ball in contact with the material while rotating the ball.

71. (New) A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the ball housed within the socket is rotatable in any direction.